

The WORKS Space

Department of Public Works Newsletter



Director's Message

Happy New Year in the City of Waukesha!

As we get through another winter season, we are looking forward to many exciting projects ahead in 2017.

In this newsletter, you will find information regarding the list of 2017 projects along with the website link as to where to keep up with the construction updates all year.

Additionally, we have included information regarding sidewalk shoveling guidelines, recycling best practices, and about how to report street lights out—we need your help with that!

As always, thank you for picking up our newsletter and we wish you the best this year!

Dr. Fred Abadi, PhD, P.E.

Sidewalk Shoveling and Icing Guidelines

One of the best ways property owners and residents can “do their part” in the community is to diligently clear the sidewalks of snow and ice throughout the winter months.

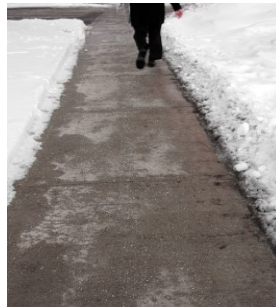
Per **city ordinance 6.12**, sidewalks must be cleared by **12 hours** after the snow has stopped falling during from a winter storm. And **ice** must be managed all winter long in the event of melting and refreezing water.

Also, properties adjacent to one or multiple **handicap curb ramps** must also keep the curb ramps clear of snow and ice. These are most commonly found on corner lots, but there are also some curb ramps mid-block.

Properties may be subject to **fees and fines** for not complying with this ordinance.

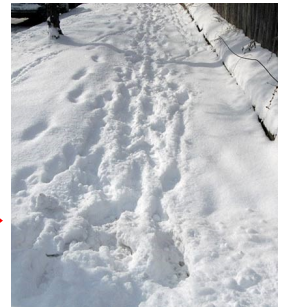
If a property owner fails to keep the sidewalk clear, the city will hire a contractor to do the shoveling and salting immediately. The property owner will be responsible for paying for cost of the contracted service.

In the winter of 2016/2017, for the first offense, a property may be charged **\$2 per linear foot** of sidewalk and **\$25 per handicap curb ramp**. For subsequent offenses, extra administrative fees are added and citations may be issued.



Well-shoveled and salted sidewalk!

Poorly managed sidewalk

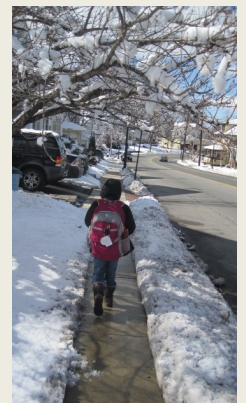


Waukesha Walks

A reminder to all drivers and pedestrians to be extra careful when venturing out this winter. Shorter daylight hours and inclement weather should inspire extra caution.

Pedestrians: be aware that drivers may have a harder time seeing you due to darkness and obstructions such as snow banks. Wear bright colors or reflective gear.

Drivers: proceed slowly and follow traffic directions when approaching an intersection or pedestrian crosswalk. Look for pedestrians about to enter the street.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



All About Snow Plowing in the City of Waukesha

Among the most important tasks the streets division is responsible for is to keep clear city streets before, during and after snow events all winter. The City of Waukesha crew answers the call with an expansive fleet of trucks and equipment, along with skilled and experienced operators and mechanics who maintain the fleet.



The city garage fleet includes 37 patrol trucks, 2 alley trucks, and 7 loaders. Additionally, the Parks and Recreation department also lends its fleet and crew to help the cause.

The city also annually purchases about **10,000** tons of salt for use on slick roadways.

There are 23 planned plow routes, not including the downtown streets. Plus, 13 downtown parking lots and several municipal city building parking lots (City Hall, the Police Department, the Engineering Annex, etc.)



During a snow event, major roadways, intersections, hospital routes and hills are plowed and salted first and repeatedly. Next, operators attend to second-tier roadways including school areas, bus routes, and railroad crossings. Finally, neighborhood streets, cul-de-sacs, and alleys are addressed.

The city strives to plow all city roads within 24 hours of snowfall. After the event is over, crews often spend days cleaning up details on the roadways including cutting the snow banks along the curbs and removing large piles of snow in downtown and public parking lots.

So the next time the snow falls, rest assured the city crews are ready to go and will work hard to keep the roads clear.

Drop-Off Center Tidbits

- Winter hours are **Saturdays only**, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. The Drop-Off is subject to closure unexpectedly due to inclement weather.
- Wednesday hours (11 a.m. to 7 p.m.) will resume April 5th through November 29th, 2017.
- The center is meant only for **City of Waukesha residents** for most items. Only **recyclables** may be accepted from county-wide residents.
- All residents **must show ID** and be prepared to list specifically what they are bringing.
- The Drop-Off does **NOT** accept EVERYTHING. And, it is NOT meant for weekly visits of trash. Special projects only!



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Street (or Parks) Light Out? How to Report

Citizens of Waukesha—we need your help! When any of the over **12,600** light poles in the City of Waukesha go out, we rely on citizens to report the outage so they may be fixed.

Unfortunately, the city does not always know when lights go out. The only way of knowing is seeing them at night when they are not working properly. City crews and WE Energies staff are generally not working in the night hours and also would not have the resources to constantly check all the lights in the city.

Therefore, it's much appreciated when citizens submit reports when lights go out!

The best way to report lights out for both WE Energies and the city is online. The first step is recognizing the difference between the WE Energies poles and the city light poles. The easy way to know which is which is if the pole is wooden or metal. The wooden poles are WE Energies and the metal poles are city lights.

To report a **WE Energies light out**, visit their website at www.we-energies.com/slo (the s-l-o stands for "street light out"). From there, you can use the map to locate the pole or enter the pole ID number to pinpoint it immediately. WE Energies' policy is to repair a street light out within 72 hours of reporting, unless it requires more significant repair.

To report **city lights that aren't working**, residents are encouraged to use the online "**Citizen Service Request Portal**."

Simply visit the City of Waukesha website home page at www.waukesha-wi.gov and click on the "**Report a Concern**" button, which has a smart phone photo as its icon.

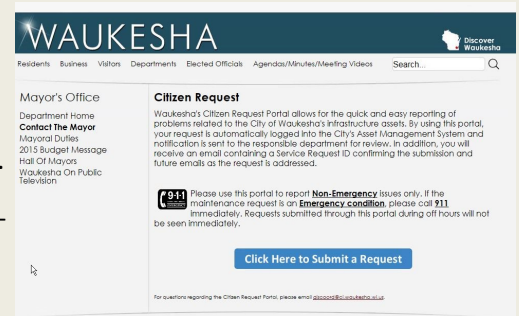
From there, click on the "**Click Here to Submit a Request**" button. Once you are there, use the drop-down menus to choose either Public Works or Parks department (depending on the location of the lighting problem that you are reporting).

If you have any questions about how to report or whether the pole is a We Energies pole or city pole, you may also email the city at dpw@ci.waukesha.wi.us or call the engineering office at 262-524-3600.

Thank you in advance for your help in reporting lights out!



Locate the pole ID number on a WE Energies pole



Screen shot of Citizen Service Request Portal found on the city website.



ALERT!

City street lights are powered by 480 volts and 100 amps. If you discover a downed street light pole or open wires, DO NOT touch anything. If its an emergency, call 911—otherwise call Engineering at 262-524-3600.



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How Does the Clean Water Plant Work?

Ever wonder where it goes when you flush? Well, we are going to tell you anyway!

“Wastewater” is the term for all sewage material. The city owns and operates a multi-million dollar facility to properly treat it. The Clean Water Plant operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to process all the wastewater generated in the city. Not to be taken for granted, this system is among the most important and valuable services the city provides to maintain a functioning, healthy and thriving community.



Here are the basic steps of what happens after you flush:

1. Wastewater runs from the pipes in your house through the **lateral pipe** under your front yard to the street.
2. The wastewater then enters the **sanitary sewer**, which runs under the center of the street. The sanitary sewer ideally is sloped downhill so gravity can move the wastewater to the treatment plant. In areas where gravity alone cannot move the wastewater, **pump stations** are in place to lift or move the material back to gravity flow.
3. When arriving at the plant, solids are separated from the wastewater in **settling basins**.
4. Solids are processed through a series of **anaerobic digesters** to produce an inert bio-solid. The water is processed through an aerobic activated sludge process in which the bacteria are ‘recycled.’
5. Treated dewatered bio-solids are then stored until they can be taken for **agricultural land use composting**. The treated water passes through a final filtration and disinfection process and flows to the **Fox River** after treatment.



Residents wanting more information are encouraged to visit waukesha-wi.gov/425/Clean-Water-Plant or call 262-524-3625.

How to Pay at the Metro Transit Parking Ramp

- 1) **Enter on Brook St.** into the parking garage, from E North St. or E St. Paul Ave.
- 2) Proceed up the ramp to the **2nd or 3rd floor parking** and find a parking stall not labeled Reserved or Restricted. (Note: the 3rd floor is the rooftop of the structure.)
- 3) Note your **parking stall number** and proceed to the nearest stairwell or the elevator lobby to locate a pay box.
- 4) At the pay box, enter your stall number and pay. **The cost is \$2 for 24 hour parking.** Cash, coin or cards are accepted.
- 5) Take your receipt and keep it with you. Or, place it on the dashboard of your car. You do not have to return to the pay box before leaving.



That's it! For more information, visit: waukesha-wi.gov/439/Municipal-Parking or call 262-524-3622.

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Convenient Ways to Pay on the Waukesha City Bus

There are many convenient ways to pay the fare on **Waukesha Metro Transit**. Metro now offers electronic swipe cards including **Day Passes, 10-Ride Cards and 31-Day Passes**. Day Passes may be purchased on the bus or through the vending machines at the Transit Center and are good for an entire day. 10-ride cards are available for Adults, Youth (17 years old and under) and Seniors 65+ or disabled customers.

Each time a 10-Ride card is used, the fare box automatically deducts one ride from the card and prints a record of the trip on the back of the card. A 31-Day Pass is good for 31 days starting the first day the pass is activated on the bus. The 31-Day passes are discounted from the cash fare and are also available for Adults, Youth and Senior/Disabled customers.

10-Ride Cards and 31-Day Passes are sold at vending machines at the Transit Center. The machines accept cash and credit/debit cards. These fare items are also sold at several Metro fare outlets throughout our service area including:

- Waukesha State Bank, downtown Waukesha
- Pick N' Save and Sentry Foods stores (Waukesha stores)
- Associated Bank, downtown Waukesha
- Waukesha County Technical College bookstore

As always, cash is still accepted on the bus. Exact fares are preferred, but if there is an overpayment, the fare box will issue a Fare Value Card for the value of the overpayment which can be used toward future rides.

For a complete list of Metro's fares, please go to waukeshametro.org.

For questions regarding fares or any of Metro's services, please call 262-524-3636 or e-mail transit@ci.waukesha.wi.us.



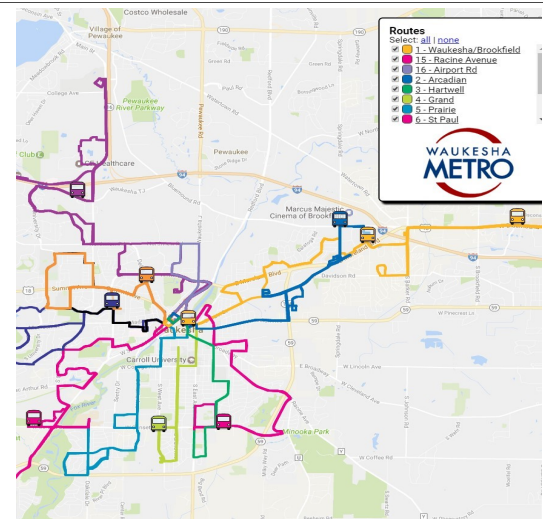
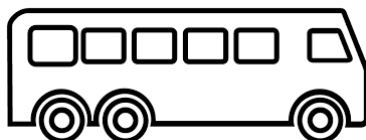
Ticket vending machine at the Transit Center



Pay box on Metro Transit buses

Did you know!?

The City of Waukesha has 21 buses operating service seven days a week. These routes connect regionally including to Brookfield, Milwaukee, and beyond!



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



ID Your Carts and Bins

When the wind blows hard, the garbage and recycling carts can move far.

Since they all look very similar, it can be quite challenging to find your bin after a wind storm if you do not have your ID number written down or house number stickers on your cart.

All residents are encouraged to **write down their cart ID numbers** for reference in the event carts move by accident. The ID number, found on the front of the cart in white numerals, links the cart to a specific address. Per the city contract for garbage and recycling services, it is important the carts remain at the property they are linked to and return to that property if moved.

Residents **may also apply house number stickers** on their trash and recycle bins to help quickly identify them in the event they do move. Residents with alley pickup are also encouraged to sticker their cans and bins for easy identification.



Recyclables—Do **NOT** Bag Them Up!

When it comes to recyclables in the bin—**loose is best**.

One of the most common recycling **mistakes** is bagging up recyclables in plastic bags. This is a big problem at the facility and leads to a higher cost of operations.

While basic plastic bags are technically recyclable (they may have a 'recycle triangle' on them or say 'recyclable' on the bag), they **cannot** be recycled through the household pickup service.

The reason is that the recycling facility where the normal recyclables go—bottles, cans, papers, cardboard, etc.—is operated with many conveyor belts and other machinery which depend on loose items. Plastic bags (and other problem items like cords, ropes, general trash, etc.) get caught up in the machinery. This causes costly breakdowns and delays.

Instead, plastic bags **CAN** be turned in for recycling at participating local retail stores which have a plastic bag deposit bin. Usually, those plastic bag deposit bins are located near the front doors of the stores. It's a good program! Those bags do get recycled at a facility which can handle the material.

Otherwise, at home, plastic bags should **ONLY** go into the trash bin, not recycled.

****The only exception to this rule at home is using 100% transparent plastic bags for recycling shredded paper.** In this case, tie the bag tight and throw the whole bag into the recycle bin. It will be pulled out of the pile before it gets to the machinery.**



Visit waukeshacounty.gov/recycling or call 262-896-8300 for any more specific recycling questions!

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2016 Reviews...and 2017 Previews

In **2016**, the Department of Public works spent approximately **\$16.9 million** on road and utility reconstruction projects. This ambitious project list was met with enthusiasm and resulted in significant improvement to some major roadways including E Moreland Blvd., E Main St. in downtown, Summit Ave./Delafield St., N Greenfield Ave. and Tenny Ave.

Additionally, the Clean Water Plant finished its multi-year facility upgrade, the South St. parking ramp installed new lighting, Metro Transit added bus service to Meijer and the city Drop-Off Center switched entrances for safer traffic flow.

In **2017**, the work continues! Look for these exciting public works projects in the coming year:

- **N Grand Ave and South St. utility and road improvements (downtown)**
- **Northview Rd. and Grandview Blvd. intersection improvements**
- **Prairie Ave. and NW Barstow St. utility and street improvements**
- **Jefferson Ave., Oscar St., Greenway Terrace, Butler Dr., and Saratoga Dr. utility improvements**
- **Building of a new Fire Station #3**
- **And much more!**



2016 Delafield St. Reconstruction



For the complete list and updates, visit waukesha-wi.gov/1129/Construction-Projects

DPW Frequently Asked Questions!

Q: How do I dispose of batteries?

A: Generally, single use batteries (double A, triple A, etc.) are OK to throw into the trash at home. They should **NOT** be put in the recycling bin. Alternatively, some battery stores do accept them back for recycling, sometimes for a small cost.

Q: How do I dispose of TVs and other electronics?

A: TVs and other electronics must be recycled per Wisconsin State Law. However, they should **NOT** go into your home recycling bin. Instead, they should be brought to an electronics recycling collector. In Waukesha, we host occasional drop off events for these items (2017 dates to be announced soon). Other communities host similar events and Waukesha residents can attend. Visit waukeshacounty.gov/recycling to see list of upcoming events in nearby communities to Waukesha.

Q: How do I dispose of fluorescent lights?

A: Fluorescent lights are considered household hazardous waste due to the mercury content within them. These lights (the compact bulbs or the tubes) can be brought to the Household Hazardous Waste drop off (located at 900 Sentry Dr., behind the old incinerator, at no cost. For hours of operation, visit waukeshacounty.gov/recycling or call 262-896-8300.

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130 Delafield St.
Waukesha, WI 53188

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DPW INFORMATION

CITY HALL ANNEX BUILDING (Engineering)
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Waukesha, WI 53188
262-524-3600

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS:

Dr. Fred Abadi, PhD, P.E. fabadi@ci.waukesha.wi.us

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GARBAGE AND RECYCLING: 262-524-3600

METRO TRANSIT CENTER: 262-524-3636

PARKING SERVICES: 262-524-3622

CLEAN WATER PLANT: 262-524-3625

EMERGENCY: 911

WEBSITE: www.waukesha-wi.gov/422/Public-Works

EMAIL: DPW@ci.waukesha.wi.us

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Mr. Dustin Nolan dnolan@ci.waukesha.wi.us

Please email with feedback and suggestions!

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CITY OF WAUKESHA

